

We claim:

- 1 1. A customizable application system comprising:
  - 2 an application server;
  - 3 an application interface generator configured to generate an application user interface, the
  - 4 application user interface including a customizable immediate access
  - 5 keystroke sequence and configured as an interface between the application
  - 6 server and a client;
  - 7 a web application server configured to deliver the application user interface to a client;
  - 8 means for specifying customization data configured to characterize the customizable
  - 9 immediate access keystroke sequence;
  - 10 a data depository configured to store the customization data; and
  - 11 means for generating the application user interface according to the customization data.

1           2. A method of developing a customizable user interface element, the method  
2                           comprising the steps of:  
3           selecting a customizable immediate access keystroke sequence;  
4           developing a user interface element associated with the customizable immediate access  
5                           keystroke sequence;  
6           determining a data record for holding a value used to characterize the customizable  
7                           immediate access keystroke sequence, the data record being stored in a data  
8                           repository and being user modifiable, the data repository being physically remote  
9                           from a client used to display an application user interface;  
10          generating metadata defining the customizable immediate access keystroke sequence, the  
11                           metadata including a reference to the data record; and  
12          storing the metadata in association with the user interface element, the user interface  
13                           element being configured for inclusion in the application user interface.

1 3. A method of customizing an application user interface, the method comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3 accessing a page definition, the page definition including metadata associated with a  
4 customizable immediate access keystroke sequence;  
5 using the metadata to access a data record, the data record being stored in a data  
6 repository and being user modifiable, the data repository being physically remote  
7 from a client used to display an application user interface;  
8 using information read from the data record to determine a value defining the  
9 customizable immediate access keystroke sequence;  
10 generating markup-language responsive to the determined value; and  
11 including the generated markup-language in the application user interface.